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Department of State

TELEGRAM

Pol 14 Viet S (1537)

CONFIDENTIAL 838

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13158 170926Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 AID-20 RSR-01
/094 W

077208

R 170847Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8773

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13158

SUBJ: GVN PROHIBITS ANTI-PRESIDENT NIXON ELECTION SYMBOL

1. IN CALL I MADE THIS MORNING ON FOREIGN MINISTER AT HIS REQUEST, LAM EXPRESSED GVN REGRET OVER CHOICE BY LOWER HOUSE ASPIRANT TRAN TUAN NHAM OF CAMPAIGN SYMBOL WHICH IS SLUR ON PRESIDENT NIXON. (SYMBOL, WHICH NORMALLY WOULD APPEAR ON BALLOT, CONSISTS OF CARICATURE OF PRESIDENT NIXON WITH X DRAWN THROUGH IT AND THE STATEMENT, "AGAINST THE AMERICANS TO SAVE THE NATION".) NHAM, A POLITICALLY UNKNOWN FIGURE ASSOCIATED WITH MME. NGO BA THANH'S OPPOSITIONIST FRONT, IS RUNNING FOR THE LOWER HOUSE FROM SAIGON'S 1ST CONSTITUENCY.

2. LAM REPORTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD DECIDED AT CABINET MEETING AUG 16 TO ORDER ALL POSTERS CONTAINING THIS SYNBOL TO BE PICKED UP AND TO FORBID ITS APPEARANCE ON THE BALLOT. NHAM WILL BE TOLD THAT HE IS NOT BEING PREVENTED FROM RUNNING BUT THAT HE MUST ADOPT ANOTHER SYMBOL UNDER WHICH TO RUN.

3. THE CABINET DECIDED NOT TO INTERFERE WITH A SECOND CANDIDATE WHOSE SYMBOL WAS A PICTURE OF DIEM AND WHOSE SLOGAN WAS "REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF NGO DINH DIEM."
BERGER

SAIGON 13158 8/11/71

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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RELEASE DENIED☐
P.A. or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Department of State TELEGRAM

Pol 14-Viet S (1539)

SECRET 990

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USIE-00

PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

RSR-01 RSC-01 /049 W

0781Z01

O 171043Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8797

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 13186

LIMDIS

SUBJ: WHAT HAPPENS IF MINH WITHDRAWS?

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR ASSESSMENT, AS OF AUGUST 17, OF PROPABLE CONSEQUENCES HERE OF MINH'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. SUMMARY. WE BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY THAN NOT THAT MINH WILL DECIDE TO WITHDRAW AND CHARGE THIEU WITH FRAUD. IF THIEU DECIDES TO GO THROUGH WITH A ONE-MAN SHAM ELECTION, HE WILL BECOME SUBJECT TO GROWING OPPOSITION WHICH WOULD SOON REQUIRE REPRESSIVE MEASURES. A POLITICAL SOLUTION WOULD BE CONCEIVABLE IN THE FORM OF NEW ELECTIONS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THIEU WOULD RESORT TO THIS METHOD ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. THE OUTLOOK THEREFORE WOULD BE FOR GROWING POLITICAL INSTABILITY. END SUMMARY.

A. WILL MINH WITHDRAW?

3. NUMEROUS PRESSURES, SOME SELF-GENERATED, ARE NOW WEIGHTING ON GENERAL MINH TO WITHDRAW FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. POSSIBLE THE MOST IMPORTANT--AT LEAST THE ONE HE CITES MOST PROMINENTLY--IS THE CONTENTION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS ENGAGING IN UNFAIR PRACTICES TO INSURE THIEU'S REELECTION. MINH HAS OFFERED WHAT HE HONESTLY SEEMS CONVINCED IS IRREFUTABLE PROOF THAT THIS OCCURRING. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION

SECRET

Saigon 13186 8/17/71

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